

TOWN OF BARRINGTON
HOUSING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Members Present: S. Martin, Chairman
 C. Brady
 R. Staples
 B. Copple
 S. Rosevear
 S. Boyajian

Also Present: J. Speakman, President of the Town Council
 K. Weymouth, Vice President of the Town Council
 J. Azevedo, Planning Board Liaison

MINUTES OF MEETING

- Mr. Martin called the meeting to order.
- Mr. Martin made a motion that the Housing Board of Trustees suspend its meetings indefinitely and draft an explanatory letter to relevant state and local officials. The letter would indicate that the Town has failed to fund the Affordable Housing trust fund that was established by ordinance and required to be funded pursuant to the Town's comprehensive plan and that without some source of funding the Board has no work to do.
 - Ms. Rosevear seconded the motion.
 - The Board discussed Mr. Martin's motion. The discussion including the following:
 - Mr. Martin expressed that the lack of funding may be indicative of a lack of commitment to the state's affordable housing requirements.
 - Mr. Boyajian indicated that the Board serves a purpose even without funding including correcting of misunderstanding and misinformation concerning affordable housing.
 - Mr. Copple expressed reservations concerning the suspension of meetings including whether the Board itself has the authority to disband.
 - Councilors Speakman and Weymouth urged the Board to continue its work.

- The members of the Board expressed their gratitude for the efforts of councilors Speakman and Weymouth and agreed that the Board's comments were not a reflection upon them. However, the fact remains that the Affordable Housing trust fund is not funded.
 - Councilor Weymouth indicated that she would seek to fund the Affordable Housing trust fund with the accumulated income of the Spencer Trust if the funds could be used consistent with the Spencer Trust's requirements. She explained the status of the Spencer Trust advisory board's work and the potential transfer of the fund to the Rhode Island Foundation.
 - In light of this development, the Board discussed options for use of Spencer Trust funds that would be consistent with applicable restrictions.
- Mr. Copple offered an amendment to Mr. Martin's motion. Mr. Copple proposed that the Board not suspend its meetings, but rather indicate in its letter that it will suspend its meetings in the future should the Affordable Housing trust fund remain unfunded.
- In light of the Board's earlier discussion, there was no second before Mr. Copple made a motion to table Mr. Martin's motion until the later of the earlier of the outcome of councilor Weymouth's effort to obtain funding for the Affordable Housing trust fund or the Board's April meeting.
 - Mr. Staples seconded Mr. Copple's motion to table.
 - The Board voted 3-2 to table Mr. Martin's motion (Mssrs. Copple, Staples and Boyajian in favor and Ms. Rosevear and Mr. Martin against).
- Mr. Staples made a motion to accept the November and December 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rosevear and passed unanimously.
- Ms. Azevedo reported that the Planning Board was taking up the master plan approval for the former Zion property.
- Councilor Speakman reported that Craig Spinella had informed the Town that the Phase I environmental assessment of the former Sowams Nursery was complete and that EBCDC was requesting a letter of support for the Town in order to seek LIHTCs.
- There being no further business, Ms. Rosevear made a motion to adjourn that was carried unanimously.